

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A sensory output device including control means responsive to episodic receipt of data signals defining a source and/or an emotional representation (emoticon) to provide an output stimulus defining the received data signals and dependant thereon characterised in that the control means is responsive to each episode to modify the intensity of the response or to amend the response such that the output stimulus develops
10 an intensity which changes to reflect perceivable characteristics of the source.
2. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 1 comprising a data store which is user programmable with preferred output responses to specific source related data.
- 15 3. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 2 in which the data store includes data defining a plurality of attributes associated with each source, each such attribute reflecting at least one emoticon and having an intensity value associated therewith, the intensity marker being incremented or decremented to reflect historic values of emotional representations received from the respective source.
- 20 4. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 3 in which the intensity markers are decremented periodically if a pre-determined period of time elapses without receipt of an emotional representation from a source.
- 25 5. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 4 in which the intensity value associated with any emoticon is bounded such that a maximum intensity of response is provided.
6. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which the data
30 signals are derived from a cellular telephony messaging system.
7. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 6 in which the data signals are transferred to the control means directly by receipt from a cellular telephone network.

8. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 6 in which the data signals are transferred to the control means by way of a communication to a telephone handset with which the SOD has been previously paired.
- 5 9. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 8 in which the data signals are transferred using low power radio signalling to effect communication between a paired handset and the SOD.
- 10 10. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which received SMS messages are scanned by the control means to identify emoticons or specific words or phrases contained within a message to determine the response and intensity of response of the SOD.
- 15 11. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 10 in which the control means scans received messages to determine if a received message contains one or more emoticons for which a response is pre-defined, and, if so, the immediate responsive output may be intensified to reflect a strength marker associated with the identified emoticons.
- 20 12. A sensory output device as claimed in claim 10 in which the control means scans received messages to determine if a received message contains one or more emoticons for which a response is pre-defined, and, if so, determines if the message contains a plurality of emoticons of similar characteristic and the intensifies the response to reflect the number of emoticons present.
- 25 13. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which the device comprises a wearable element which may be adapted to provide a thermal response to a particular source and to vary the intensity of the thermal response in dependence upon identified characteristics of a received message.
- 30 14. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which the device comprises a wearable element which may be adapted to provide an optical response which includes a colour change capability.
- 35 15. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which the device comprises a wearable element which may be adapted to provide an olfactory response.

16. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which the device comprises a wearable element including means to cause constriction of at least a part of the wearable element.
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17. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which the device comprises a wearable element including means to provide a vibrational stimulus to the wearer.
- 10 18. A sensory output device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 in which the device comprises a three dimensional object responsive to data signals to provide a thermal, visual, vibration or olfactory response.
- 15 19. A sensory output device as claimed in any one of claim 18 in which the object is incorporated in a wearable element.
20. A sensory output device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 comprising a three dimensional character having characteristics including movements of one or more parts thereof, the movement of the parts being dependent upon the source and/or
- 20 emotional messages received or derived therefrom.
21. A sensory output device as claimed in any preceding claim in which the control means is also be responsive to voice communications and includes voice recognition means whereby particular words or phrases spoken during a conversation or received as
- 25 a voice message is used to provide a responsive output to the SOD.